



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

object had been simply to communicate a fact, the observation of which he believed was unique, that there is a destroying power in some kinds of peat on the human body. In all previous cases, peat had been considered a preservative. In this case, however, there were the remains of a human body found in a coffin among other similar ones which contained nothing, and respecting which the opinion prevailed that they were chests wherein treasure had been buried; and it was not until they had opened several, that they had found a single trace of a human body. As soon, however, as Dr. Hamilton found a finger-nail in one of them, he gave up his theory that the coffins were merely chests. It was a subject of the greatest interest to know where human bodies were to be found. In one case, a man had been buried, but not a trace of a skeleton was to be found; yet an impression of his face remained when all the integuments of the human body were gone. Vegetable substances, which had been buried at the same time, were as fresh as at the present day. All the coffins were found near each other, and within a few inches only of difference in their levels, there are great varieties of peat, varying in quality with the vegetable substances of which they are composed. He hoped that the paper would prove that in some cases, at least, bodies that had been buried perhaps only thirty years had disappeared.

The PRESIDENT then read the following paper, which was a sequel to the foregoing one:—

*On the Interpretation of some Inscriptions on Stones recently discovered in the Island of Brassay, Zetland.* By Dr. JAMES HUNT. Abstract. [The paper will appear in the *Memoirs*.]

The stones mentioned in the above paper were described by Dr. Hunt. The markings thereon were considered by Dr. Charlton, of Newcastle, to be, one a compound rune, spelling the letters TNYR, the other an Ogham letter B. Principal Barclay, of the University of Glasgow, considered them combined runes, each spelling the word Teit or Tait. Professor Stephens, of Copenhagen, considered them not to be runes, but “runic bo-marks,” monograms, or masons’ marks, one of the characters possibly representing an anchor. Dr. George Moore, of Hastings, considered them monograms formed of Runic characters united, the signification being in each case Danr or Dany. Dr. Pruner-Bey, of Paris, interpreting them as Phœnician, read one of them as *siz* (town) or *sous* (horse). Dr. R. S. Charnock considered one to spell *dud* or *tat*, and the other *dadda* or *tatta*. The specimens will be deposited in the Museum of Scottish Antiquaries.

The thanks of the meeting were voted to the President for his two communications.

Dr. CAPLIN asked what name would be denoted if the inscriptions were reversed?

Dr. CHARNOCK: They would have no meaning at all.

Mr. MACKENZIE adverted to the interpretations by the members of the “Pickwick Club” of the mysterious-looking inscription on a stone submitted to them, and he compared the various interpretations of the meaning of the marks on the stones over the coffins which had

been rendered by the gentlemen to whom they had been shown, to the ingenious interpretations given by the members of the "Pickwick Club" to the imperfect cutting in stone of "John Snooks, his mark."

The Rev. DUNBAR HEATH thought the matter to be of considerable interest and importance. With respect to the differences between the letters T and D, he could well understand that they might be mistaken one for the other. It would seem probable that the marks denoted the name of the man buried, and it was a fact of interest that the Runes were formerly in that part of Scotland.

The PRESIDENT stated that the second paper originally formed part of the first one, but he had subsequently divided it into two, and he was glad that Mr. Heath found the latter part of the paper at least to be interesting. If the characters were Runic, he must say that he did not find anything like them in Maes-how, and that nothing Runic had been found in Shetland before.

*On the Resemblance of Inscriptions found on Ancient British Rocks with those of Central America.* By Dr. BERTHOLD SEEMANN.

Abstract. [The paper will appear at length in the *Memoirs*.]

Referring to the discoveries which had been made in Northumberland and on the Eastern borders, and which had been described by Mr. George Tate in his work on the subject, and after giving an abstract of Mr. Tate's views, the author pointed out that thousands of miles away, in a remote corner of tropical America, we find the concentric rings, and several others of the most typical characters engraved on the British rocks. These he had himself discovered, and had more than once described. He considered them to resemble Mr. Tate's specimens so closely, that when the plates of that gentleman's work were first shown to him (and he was quite ignorant to what country they related), he fully believed them to represent Veraguas inscriptions. He gave five examples of Veraguas markings, each of which he considered resembled a corresponding figure in the British inscriptions. Both were incised on large stones, the surface of which had not previously undergone any smoothing process. The people who were found in the district, probably the Dorachos or Dorazques, had also made considerable progress in sculpturing columns, and placing on them raised characters. But as these required far more artistic skill than incised characters, and denoted a higher degree of civilisation, Dr. Seemann considered that the incised characters were by a different, less civilised, and more ancient race than those who sculptured the characters in relief. After describing the famous *pedra pintal*, near the town of David, the author concluded by pointing out that could identity be established between the rocks of Britain and Veraguas, the legitimate speculation might be indulged in, that in prehistoric times connection existed between Europe and America, when the island of Atlantis—in the hands of modern science no longer a myth—intimately connected both.

The thanks of the meeting were given to Dr. Seemann for his paper.

Mr. BOLLAERT observed that he did not see any resemblance be-